CLAIMS

The embodiments of the invention in which an exclusive property or privilege is claimed are defined as follows:

1. A clamping device for use in a clipboard, said clamping device comprising:

a base plate fixedly attached to a board by bolts, nuts and washers;

an upper clamping member having a front portion, a back portion and a tailing portion, said back portion having an opening corresponding to the tailing portion, and said tailing portion extending substantially in a plan defined by the front portion; a free end of the back portion being spring loadably connected to said base plate at a first spring loaded hinge;

a lower clamping member extending substantially parallel to said upper clamping member, said lower clamping member being spring loadably connected to said upper clamping member via an intermediate connecting member; said lower clamping member being connected to said intermediate connecting member at a second spring loaded hinge and said upper clamping member being connected to said intermediate connecting member at a third spring loaded hinge; said lower clamping member extending through said opening defined in the back portion of the upper clamping member; and

an actuating lever spring loadably connected to said upper clamping member and to said intermediate connecting member at said third spring loaded hinge, said actuating lever being used to move said lower clamping member between a raised resting position and a lowered clamping position in order to retain an existing clamped bundle of sheets on said board while said actuating lever moves said upper clamping member between a lowered clamping position and a raised actuating position in order to add an extra sheet to said existing bundle of sheets.

2. The clamping device as defined in claim 1, wherein said upper clamping member is formed by a metal plate that is bent downwardly at a folded line which divided the upper clamping member into said front and back portions.

3. The clamping device as defined in claim 2, further comprising a latch member for retaining the actuating lever in a downwardly resting position where said actuating lever extends right on top of said tailing portion.

4. The clamping device as defined in claim 3, further comprising a cranked rod freely secured to the base plate by a first pair of eyelets and to the lower clamping member by one second eyelet, said cranked rod defining a desired traveling path for the lower clamping member such that said lower clamping member travels from its raised resting position to its lowered clamping position.

5. The clamping device as defined in claim 1, wherein said actuating lever comprises a tongue portion used to transform a downward force applied on said actuating lever into a torsional force applied to said second and third spring loaded hinges when said actuating lever is in an upwardly activated position, said torsional force being created when a free end of said tongue portion comes into contact with and applies a pressure on the intermediate connecting member in order to rotate said intermediate connecting member about said third spring loaded hinges, the rotation of the intermediate connecting member causing said lower clamping member to move between its raised resting position and its lowered clamping position.

6. The clamping device as defined in claim 5, wherein the tongue portion of said actuating lever is used to move only the upper clamping member when said actuating lever is in its downwardly resting position, said lower clamping member staying in its raised resting position during the movement made by said upper clamping member.

7. The clamping device as defined in claim 1, wherein said base plate comprises a stop portion that is used to prevent the existing clamped bundle of sheets from getting stuck under the lower

clamping member when said lower clamping member is at its raised resting position.

8. The clamping device as defined in claim 1, wherein said clipboard is adapted to receive a large bundle of sheets with the use of long bolts and spacer means disposed between the board and the base plate in order to elevate said clamping device at a desired distance from said board.